



# Recycling Lines

Electronic Newsletter

## Winter 2006

Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, Division of Environmental Enhancement

P.O. Box 1105, Richmond, Virginia 23218 (804) 698-4029 Fax (804) 698-4224.

DEQ's Community Involvement Initiative: The Department of Environmental Quality is dedicated to helping the public better understand DEQ's role in protecting the environment, and to involving the public more effectively in environmental decision making.

**Please note our new P.O. Box and Zip Code .**

**Welcome to Recycling Lines, We hope that some of this information is helpful to you in your programs, and hope you'll help us with news from your area related recycling. Let us know by sending this information to Steve Coe at**

**[gscoe@deq.virginia.gov](mailto:gscoe@deq.virginia.gov).**

### Results of **Hanover** County's Student Recycling Sort

Approximately 16 students enrolled in an Environmental Sociology class from Randolph Macon visited a recycling center in Hanover County on Friday, October 27. In front of them lay 1,080 pounds of what the citizens of Hanover County had put into a commingled recyclables bin. The task that the students faced was to go through the assortment of plastics, glass and aluminum. About 900 pounds or 83% were proper materials and 180 pounds (17%) were contaminants. By volume, 94.6% were proper and 5.4% were contaminants. From this sample, Hanover County concluded that the county is spending \$3,000 per year to process and \$2,000 per year to haul contaminants. The \$5,000 is equal to 7.6% of the entire drop-off budget for commingled recyclables. For more information contact Steve Chidsey at 804-365-6178 or [sechidsey@co.hanover.va.us](mailto:sechidsey@co.hanover.va.us)

### Students Encourage Fellow Classmates to Recycle

Keep **Loudoun** Beautiful has named Park View High School as the best recycling high school in the county. Students in the Science and Ecology Club have made it easy for students to recycle by placing bins donated by Rubbermaid Corporation in every hallway, two in the cafeteria, and one next to the soda machine. The students sign up for shifts to monitor the bins and when they are full, they place the recycled items in the larger receptacles behind the school. Presently, the students are collecting about 50% of the cans. Their goal is to collect at least 70 or 80 percent of the cans next year. Contact Keep Loudoun Beautiful by calling (703)771-4231 or email them at [info@keeploudounbeautiful.org](mailto:info@keeploudounbeautiful.org)

### Poquoson Builds an Environmentally Friendly School

**Poquoson** is building an environmentally friendly elementary school that will use groundwater as the primary source of its heating and cooling system. The building will also make use of natural light and will have a dimmer system to decrease utility costs. The school should recover the initial utility expenses within the first seven years and the building is expected to last for 50 years. The roof will channel rainwater to downspouts that will lead to planters and catch basins. Construction is expected to be completed in April, 2008.

For information about the construction of the school and its environmentally friendly features, contact the architect, Bill Bradley, of VMDO Architects at (434) 296-5684 or [bradley@vmdo.com](mailto:bradley@vmdo.com)

### Did You Know?

- ✓ The Litter Prevention and Recycling Grants have been awarded to 180 jurisdictions which received a total of \$1,457,295 for FY 2007. Contact Steve Coe at (804) 698-4029 or [gscoe@deq.virginia.gov](mailto:gscoe@deq.virginia.gov)
- ✓ On Saturday, November 4, 2006, residents of **Hampton Roads** were able to drop off their winter holiday decorations they no longer wanted and people who wanted holiday decorations were able to take them for free! The event was announced in the Virginian-Pilot and advertised by Freecycle. Contact Holly Carson at (757) 441-1347 or [holly.carson@norfolk.gov](mailto:holly.carson@norfolk.gov)
- ✓ The Virginia Recycling Association reports that more than 20 electronics recycling events were held throughout the Commonwealth in April and May 2006 and resulted in the collection of 143 tons of electronics recyclables. The VRA states that not every locality that held an event has reported their figures, so the actual numbers should be higher. For more information contact Kate Sicola at (703) 324-5439 or [kate.sicola@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:kate.sicola@fairfaxcounty.gov)
- ✓ The VRA needs 350 pre-paid DMV applications in order to apply for a Virginia recycling license plate. If you are interested in designing a plate or would like to pre-order a license plate, go to <http://www.vrarecycles.org/plate.htm> for forms and details.

### How to Implement a School Recycling Program

Some jurisdictions in Virginia have looked to the school systems for opportunities to increase recycling. Students and staff that are involved in ecology clubs have often been the ones who have taken the initiative in implementing recycling programs in their schools.

Keep Georgia Beautiful recently created a guide titled: [A Guide for Implementing a School Recycling Program](#). It has step-by-step directions for how to establish a recycling program in a school and contains a list of questions that should be asked of trash and recycling contractors that serve the schools.

Check out Georgia's [Guide for Implementing a School Recycling Program](#) by going to : [http://www.dca.state.ga.us/environmental/kgb/education\\_recycling.html](http://www.dca.state.ga.us/environmental/kgb/education_recycling.html)

## Recycling Lines Continued

### Chesapeake Reuses Fly Ash

Just south of the Gilmerton Bridge in Chesapeake and looking like a giant igloo is the new ash reuse center. It is the first of its kind in Virginia and the fourth in the nation. The facility is used to bake carbon-laden fly ash which can be sold and made into concrete, roof tiling, and construction blocks. Before this facility was built, the ash was buried in an industrial landfill.

Dominion Virginia Power expects the new facility to make money, create jobs and help the environment. Lisa Cooper, the vice president of Progress Materials Inc, says that they have opened two other facilities in South Carolina and Massachusetts and finds this to be a zero-waste, ammonia-free, and low carbon process.

For more information about ash management, visit the Progress Materials Inc. website at

<http://www.progressmaterials.com/index.html>

### Stafford County and the City of Fredericksburg to Participate in the EPA's Voluntary Landfill Methane Outreach Program

Stafford County has contracted with Ameresco Inc to construct a plant at the landfill on Eskimo Hill Road to convert the methane gas produced by the landfill into electricity. The facility will be able to generate enough electricity to power 1,500 homes.

The energy company is paying the regional landfill \$170,000 a year for the gas that is produced. Construction of the plant is expected to begin in February and will be completed by the end of 2007. According to Shelley Cohen, a senior project developer with Ameresco, methane gas is a more environmentally friendly energy source than other traditional methods of energy production. By reducing emissions from the landfill and using the methane, they are contributing to cleaner air.

Ameresco and the R-Board (a joint venture of the governments of Stafford and Fredericksburg) are partners in the EPA's Landfill Methane Outreach Program, which is a voluntary program that promotes the use of landfill gas as a renewable energy source.

The **Prince William County** Landfill also traps gas before it gets into the air. Prince William County has two engines that use the methane and generate electricity which is shunted from the Landfill-Gas-to-Energy facility at the back of the landfill to the Northern Virginia Electric Cooperative. The amount of energy that is converted is enough to power 2,000 houses per day. This equates to only about a third of what the landfill produces. The rest of the gas is burned off in a furnace.

For more information about the EPA's Landfill Methane Outreach Program, go to: <http://www.epa.gov/lmop/>. To learn more about Ameresco an energy service company, go to: <http://www.ameresco.com/>

### Reusing and Recycling Christmas Trees

The **Prince William County** Cooperative Extension and the Department of Public Works suggest buying a live Christmas tree for several reasons. First, it supports Virginia agriculture and trees are a renewable resource. After a tree is cut, the farmer will plant two to three seedlings in its place. Cut trees also have uses after the holidays. Here are some suggestions:

- ✓ Trim the branches from the trees and spread the greenery as a cover for plants and gardens. Some plants will do better with more protection from bare soil and the elements of winter.
- ✓ Place the tree in the yard and lay it on its side or secure it to other trees so that it is standing up. Sprinkle food around the base or hand fruit and popcorn on the tree to attract animals.
- ✓ Dispose of your tree so that it can be chipped for mulch after the holidays.

Contact Gail Harris, Recycling Program Manager, at (703) 792-6804 or [gharris@pwcgov.org](mailto:gharris@pwcgov.org)

### America Recycles Day

Fourteen events were registered on the America Recycles website for Virginia in October and November, 2006. Events included electronics recycling collections, a Recycling Works Expo, an interview with Kelly Hope about recycling, facility tours, waste sort, and recycling challenges. For details about the events that were registered, go to:

<http://www.americarecyclesday.org/home.html>

### Recycling is Picking up across the Nation

According to the EPA, the U.S. recycled 32 percent of its waste in 2005, a two percent increase from 2004 and double that of 1990.

Here are some other interesting findings from the EPA report:

- ✓ Container and packaging recycling increased to 40%.
- ✓ Nearly 62 percent of yard waste is composted.
- ✓ Approximately 42 million tons of paper was recycled in 2005 which means that there is a 50 percent recycling rate for paper.

To read the report summary, go to:

<http://www.epa.gov/msw/msw99.htm>

### Vance Middle School Wins National Recycling Contest and Provides 2,500 Fleece Jackets to Needy Children in the Community

Genette Patton of Keep **Bristol** Beautiful submitted the following story. For more information she can be contacted at (423) 989-4850 or [gpatton@bristolchamber.org](mailto:gpatton@bristolchamber.org)

Keep America Beautiful recently announced that Vance Middle School was one of the top 50 producing schools across the nation in the "Return the Warmth" plastic Recycling Drive. Only three schools in Tennessee were in the top 50 producing schools.

Vance participated in the national event March 1 – May 31, as part of the 2006 Great American Cleanup. During the three-month event, the community was asked to collect plastic containers and take them to the school or the Bristol Chamber of Commerce for recycling. The school collected 4,200 pounds of plastic.

Sam's Club, Aquafina and Keep America Beautiful sponsored the event. The school will receive a \$1,000 Sam's Club gift card and 2,500 fleece jackets for the needy children in the community.

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